Roosevelt, the humanitarian, asks us to give humanity peace. It is we, the countries of this continent, who are his spiritual sons directly, must carry this heritage, maintaining firmly his creed of good neighborliness in this continent, as well as through the concert of nations.

It is therefore fitting that the American republics present at this occasion to the Conference the following declaration:

"The Latin American republics invite all the other United Nations represented at this Conference, in homage to the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to express the aim of bringing to a fitting and perfect consummation his work as a leader of democracy, as the initiator of the Good Neighbor policy, and as the inspirer of a world organization for the maintenance of peace through the rule of justice."

I beg the assembly to express its approval by standing and remaining silent for one moment.

(Standing; silent meditation)

MR. STETTINIUS: May I, on behalf of the Government and the people of the United States, express to you our very deep appreciation and our profound gratitude for this tribute to President Roosevelt.

I know that the spirit of this great man will always be an inspiration to our united efforts now and in the days to come, to establish and maintain lasting peace.

The heads of the delegations met this morning for the purpose of recommending the organization of the Conference. The meeting has not yet completed its work and will convene again tomorrow morning at 10:30. Tomorrow's plenary session that was scheduled will therefore be postponed until the afternoon. At this afternoon's session the heads of delegations, beginning with the sponsoring countries, will address the Conference.

At this time I should like to make a brief statement in behalf of the United States Delegation.

Three years ago the forces of tyranny and aggression seemed on the very point of conquering the world. Today, on every front, they are face to face with defeat--utter and complete defeat. It has taken years of toil and sacrifice to bring us to this moment. But the doom of the aggressor nations was sealed long ago. It was sealed in Washington on January the first, 1942, when the United Nations Declaration was signed.